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POLAND'S METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY

G. Podtetenev

Before World War II, Poland's arrual production of 'vrrous motals arounted to some 900,000 tons of pig iron, 1,500,000 tons of steel, and 1,200,000 tons of rolled iron. Poland was forced to import 630,000 tons of iron ore, 52,000 tons of manganese ore, and 362,000 tons of scrap. The center of Poland's ferrous-metals industry was the Sia. Dembrouski region, which produced as much as 85 percent of all metallingical products and possessed its own ocal reserves. The Czestochows, Kielce-Radomsko, and Dolny Slask regions had iron-ore reserves estimated at 10 million tons. As a result of the war and the German occupation, Polind's metallurgical industry suffered enormous losses which, in terms of value, amounted to mearly 800 million prewar zloty.

Bight metallurgical plants were stripped of their equipment. Some branches of metallurgy lost from 20 percent to 60 percent of their productive capacity. The loss of equipment suffered by the metallurgical industry amounted, on the average, to 40% percent of its effectiveness. Rolling equipment suffered especially, so that it now occupies a low make in the metallurgical industry and may become a drag on the future development of Poland's rational economy.

Since the country was liberated from the German occupation, a significant amount of capital has been invested to restore its mital-lurgical industry. However, the disproportion in productive capitaties of the various branches of the metallurgical industry has not as yet been eliminated.

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At present, the productive capacity of blast furnaces is 850,000 tons a year, the capacity of steel foundries is 1,500,000 tons, and that of rolling mills, 835,000 tons a year. These facts indicate the disparity which exists between the productive capacities of the steel foundries and rolling mills. The rolling mills are unable to handle the foundry reserves. Additional capital investments are necessary to restore the equilibrium between the separate branches of the metallurgical industry.

The plan for restoration and development of Poland's national economy provides for the construction of two new blast furnaces, each with a 600-ton pig-iron capacity per day, the modernization and capital repair of existing blast furnaces, the restoration of six open-hearth furnaces and five destroyed rolling mills, as well as the repair of 30 old rolling mills and the construction of eight new rolling mills.

Contemplated capital investments will guarantee the concrete fulfillment of the planned production level for successive years as follows:

(Production in Thousand Tons)

		1946	1947	1948	1949
Open-Hearth Fig Steel (Raw)	Iron	726 1,219	995 1,456	1,200 1,783	1,300 2,033
Rolled Iron	in the second	796	1,000	1,125	1,300

In this way, the equilibrium between the various branches of the metallurgical industry will be restored.

However, owing to increasing demands on the metal industry for economic restoration and industrialization, the achievement of even these results will still not satisfy the internal demands of the country.

Moreover, the productive capacity of rolling mills must actually be larger than the planned volume of rolled iron production, since it is deemed macessary to have a reserve of productive capacities. Therefore, the plan for capital investments provides for the atteinment of a 1,900,000-ton productive capacity by rolling mills instead of the 835,000-ton productive capacity which is being attained at the present time.

Cwing to the reuniting of the western territories, nine units have been added to the number of metallurgical enterprises in Poland. The reserves of coking coal have also been increased by the Gleivitz and Malbraych regions.

However, in order to actisfy completely the internal market for products of the metallurgical industry, it is necessary to put into operation new enterprises. Those organs planning the metallurgical industry of Poland have foreseen this and have already begun studying the possibilities of building a new metallurgical plant ex, acted to produce one million tone of raw steal a year. This plant is to be located in the area of the Klodrica Cenal Alliwicki Canal connecting Odra and Klodnics Fivers/ in Sleak and will be the forms of all productive processes, from the coking of coal to the production of finished articles.

In 1938, Poland exported 314,000 tons of finished for rous-metal products. Following World Mar II, as a result of increasing internal demands, the export of ferrous-metal products was curtailed, and the total exports

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during 1946 amounted to 80,000 tons.

In spite of the lack of metal in the country, Poland is contemplating the export of some ferrous-metal products during the next few years. In particular, the export of pig iron and rolled iron and the simultaneous importation of iron products is being considered. This should modify somewhat the disproportion resulting from the war.

The foreign trade balance of Poland's ferrous metals industry in relation to the plan for restoration of Poland's economy during the next few years is represented in the following table:

(In Thousand Tons)

Importe		1947	1943	1949
Ore (Converted t	to Iron)	750	364	957
Exports			mark to the second	
Pig Iron Rolled Iron		96 50	30	30

Of the sum of 160 million prewer gloty which are to be invested in production during 1947, 117 million will be invested in domestic production to increase Poland's industrial strength and 45 million prewer gloty will be expended on foreign purchases.

In 1948, these sums will amount to 155 million and 40 million prewar zloty respectively.

Accordingly, it is clear that Poland's industry during this period must fulfill a series of important industrial tasks.

Poland's machine-building industry will begin the production of equipment for the metallargical industry and thereby contribute to the strengthening of Poland's sconomic independence. This fact will have an exceptionally important bearing, as well, on the furthest plan. Asyclo ment of Poland's heavy industry.

Completion of the Three-Year Plan for the restoration and development of the national accommy of Poland will bring changes to Poland's metalurgical industry, equip Poland with a series of modern enterprises, and contribute towards transforming her from an agrarian-industrial country into an industrial-agrarian country.

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